



Department of the Military

Soldiers & Sailors Bldg
425 E Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone 605.773.3269
Fax 605.773.5380

May 15, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Dakota National Guard Museum to Host Anniversary Party

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota National Guard is celebrating 150 years of service to the state and nation.

To commemorate the Guard's lineage of service, the South Dakota National Guard Museum is hosting a 150th anniversary party on Saturday, June 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The museum is located at 301 East Dakota in Pierre.

"We invite families to join us on June 9 and share in the rich history of the SDNG, which for over a century and a half, has given and will continue to give, its time and lives for causes greater than themselves," said Sonja Johnson, museum director.

"Our museum showcases weapons, uniforms and other artifacts carried or worn by South Dakota Guardsmen from the Civil War to the Gulf War," said Steve Harding, Deputy Secretary of the South Dakota Department of the Military. "This celebration will afford parents and children an educational opportunity as they hear first-hand about the history of the Guard."

Along with the tour, participants will be invited to compete in numerous games and enjoy birthday cake. Guests will be invited to sign a life-size anniversary card that Museum Director Johnson will present to Maj. Gen. Timothy Reisch, Adjutant General of the South Dakota National Guard.

"Our goal is to have 400 people join us for our celebration at the museum," said Johnson. "South Dakota's National Guard has played a major role in conflicts since the Civil War, as well as provided assistance to the state in times of domestic emergencies, such as floods, fires, tornadoes and winter storms."

-30-

For more information, contact: Audry Ricketts at 605-773-8242 or audry.ricketts@state.sd.us
(South Dakota Department of the Military)
